

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-07 ERDA-05 SS-15  
SP-02 FEA-01 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06  
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R 141620Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9853  
DIA WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA  
MBFR VIENNA 901  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10181

ATTN DIA: SEE PARA 6 FOR IR FORMAT DATA

E.O. 11652: GDS 31 DEC 83  
TAGS: PARM, MPOL, MBFR, SALT, NATO, UR, US  
SUBJECT: SOVIETS CONTINUE ATTACKS ON US NEUTRON BOMB DECISION AND  
PRESIDENT CARTER

SUMMARY: THE CENTRAL PRESS AND SOME SENIOR SOVIET MILITARY OFFICERS  
HAVE ATTACKED THE US DECISION TO PROCEED WITH PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON  
WEAPONRY AS WELL AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S SALT AND HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES.

THEY CHARACTERIZE THE NEUTRON BOMB DECISION AS A FURTHER ACCELER-  
ATION OF THE ARMS RACE, TO WHICH, ONE SOVIET GENERAL WARNED, THE  
SOVIETS CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESPOND. END SUMMARY.

1. RECENT ACTIONS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SENATE HAVE FURTHER  
FOCUSED SOVIET ATTENTION ON THE US DECISION TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOP-  
MENT OF NEUTRON WEAPONS. THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS ON 13 AND 14 JULY  
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CARRIED A TASS WASHINGTON RELEASE IN PRAVDA AND KZ AND AN  
IZVESTIYA PRESS SERVICE REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SUPPORT  
INITIAL PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS.

2. THESE REPORTS NOTE THAT THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT  
FOR PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WARHEADS AND BOMBS BUT THAT THE FINAL  
DECISION ON EQUIPPING US FORCES WITH THESE WEAPONS REMAINS TO

BE TAKEN FOLLOWING A COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOVIETS ROUNDLY CRITICIZE THE AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT OF THESE "SO-CALLED TACTICAL" WEAPONS, AS A NEW TYPE OF WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION WHICH ACCELERATES THE ARMS RACE AND, ACCORDING TO IZVESTIYA (QUOTING A CANADIAN PAPER), WHICH THREATENS THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. BOTH ARTICLES CITE US AND FOREIGN SOURCES TO BUTTRESS THEIR CLAIM THAT THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION TO US DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB.

3. AT THE 14 JULY FRENCH BASTILLE DAY RECEPTION COL GEN V.A. MAKAROV,

CHIEF OF THE MOD DIRECTORATE FOR MILITARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND LT GEN SHEVCHENKO, HEAD OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE, COMPLAINED TO US MILITARY ATTACHES ABOUT THE SENATE'S NEUTRON WEAPONRY DECISION. BOTH GENERALS CRITICIZED THIS STEP AS HARMFUL TO US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND INTENSIFYING THE ARMS RACE. MAKAROV ADDED SOLEMNLY THAT ONE COULD NOT EXPECT THE USSR TO SIT IDLY BY WITH ARMS FOLDED WHILE THE US PROCEEDS WITH SUCH WEAPONS DEVELOPMENTS.

4. THE TASS PIECE ON THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO CRITICIZED

PRESIDENT CARTER'S CHARACTERIZATION OF RECENT AMERICAN SALT PROPOSALS AS "JUST AND REASONABLE", WHILE THEY ASSERT, IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THAT THESE PROPOSALS SERVED THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE FOR THE US." IT ALSO ATTACKED THE PRESIDENT'S JUSTIFICATION.

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TION OF HIS HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN WHICH IT DESCRIBES AS A "A CLEAR ATTEMPT AT INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. AT THE FRENCH 14 JULY RECEPTION, RETIRED SOVIET MARSHAL I. KH. BAGRAMYAN COMPLAINED TO US MILITARY ATTACHES AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THE POLICIES OF PRESIDENT CARTER. MARSHAL BAGRAMYAN SPOKE FAVORABLY OF PAST SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS UNDER PRESIDENTS KENNEDY, JOHNSON, NIXON AND FORD, BUT COMPLAINED THAT CONTRARY TO HIS PRE-ELECTION PROMISES, PRESIDENT CARTER DID NOT APPEAR TO WANT TO STRENGTHEN OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS. WHEN PRESSED FOR EXAMPLES OF HARMFUL US POLICIES, BAGRAMYAN COMPLAINED OF RECENT AMERICAN SALT PROPOSALS WHICH, HE CLAIMED, SEEK TO CAST ASIDE THE VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING AND GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE US. THE MARSHAL WENT ON TO SPEAK EMOTIONALLY ABOUT THE 20 MILLION DEAD INCURRED BY THE SOVIETS DURING WORLD WAR II AND CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION REMAINS OPPOSED TO WAR AND INTENDS TO ATTACK NO ONE.

COMMENT: THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE HAS BEEN A MAJOR ELEMENT IN MANY SOVIET CRITICISMS OF US ARMS PROGRAMS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. WHILE A FEW SOVIET COMMENTARIES HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRON WEAPONRY COMPLICATES SALT II, THE MAJORITY HAVE ATTACKED IT SIMPLY AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A GENERAL US COMMITMENT TO ADD ANOTHER SPIRAL TO THE ARMS RACE. TASS'S COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT

CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND MARSHAL BAGRAMYAN'S REMARKS ARE  
CONSISTENT WITH THE NEGATIVE SOVIET TREATMENT OF THE PRESIDENT  
WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT HERE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

6.1. USSR (UR), 2. 6 901 0704 77, 3. SOVIETS CONTINUE ATTACKS ON  
NEUTRON BOMB DECISION AND PRESIDENT CARTER (U) 4. N/A, 5. 770713-  
770714, 6. 770714, 7. 770714, MOSCOW, USSR, 8. CIR: 1A1A(2)9000/  
CONTINUES 1A1D9000/CONTINUES, 9. C-3, 10. USDAO MOSCOW USSR (AIRA)  
11. NO, 12. EDWARD L. WARNER, MAJ, USAF, AAIRA, 13. RICHARD X.  
LARKIN, BRIG GEN, USA, DEFENSE ATTACHE, 14. PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA,  
RED STAR, CONVERSATIONS, USSR, 15. NON-DIRC.  
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